ECON / TMGT 2P28: Environmental Economics
Information & Data Sources

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James A. Gibson Library, Brock University
Course Learning Objectives & Outcomes

It is expected that each student will bring critical thinking and analytical reasoning to bear upon a number of environmental issues...

By the end of the course, it is expected that a student will be able to:

3. Read and comprehend news articles that discuss economic policies aimed at dealing with environmental problems
4. Find major data sources relating to environmental and natural resource economic issues and know how to interpret these data for the purposes of understanding environmental policies.

Fall 2015
“Critical thinking is a habit of mind characterized by the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.”

Source: AAC&U Critical Thinking VALUE Rubric
Where do you get your news?

- Newspaper (print or digital versions)
- Television
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Google

Fall 2015
### Main Source of Government and Political News Across the Three Generations

| % whose main source for news about government and politics is... |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| **Millennial**    | **Generation X**  | **Baby Boomer**   |
| CNN               | CNN               | Fox News          |
| 21                | 18                | 16                |
| Local TV          | Fox News          | Local TV          |
| 10                | 13                | 11                |
| Fox News          | Local TV          | CNN               |
| 8                 | 11                | 11                |
| Google News       | NPR               | Local Newspaper   |
| 7                 | 7                 | 7                 |
| Yahoo News        | Local Radio       | MSNBC            |
| 7                 | 6                 | 6                 |

American Trends Panel (wave 1). Survey conducted March 19-April 29, 2014. Q19. Based on online adults. Respondents were first asked what platform (TV, radio, etc.) they most use for news about government and politics, and then were asked to name the outlet they most turn to. Up to three answers were accepted.

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### Young vs. Old Millennials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources</th>
<th>% who heard of 18-25</th>
<th>% who heard of 26-33</th>
<th>% who got news from 18-25</th>
<th>% who got news from 26-33</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABC News</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Jazeera American</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>BBC</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Blaze</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bloomberg</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breitbart</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>BuzzFeed</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBS News</td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td>CNN</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Colbert Report</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Kos</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Daily Show</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drudge Report</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Economist</strong></td>
<td><strong>28</strong></td>
<td><strong>37</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

American Trends Panel (wave 1). Survey conducted March 19-April 29, 2014. Q20, Q22, Q24A. Based on online adults who are Millennials. N=664
One-in-Ten U.S. Adults Get News on Twitter, While About Four-in-Ten Get News on Facebook

10% get news on Twitter
17% of U.S. adults use Twitter

41% get news on Facebook
66% of U.S. adults use Facebook

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Who would you follow?
Key Strategies for News Gathering

• Facebook and Twitter are great sources for breaking news
  • Just be savvy about who/what you follow
• Google News includes 50,000 news sources worldwide including free and subscription sites, press releases, and satirical articles
• Consult traditional Library research tools (databases) for:
  • in-depth analysis of environmental and economic issues
  • current news stories (otherwise behind a paywall)
  • historical coverage of environmental issues & events
• See: http://researchguides.library.brocku.ca/econ2P28
“Finding the best data to address a research question requires that one understands the kinds of data that are available, who collects the data, and where they can be found”.

My Favorite Number: 77 Reasons We Need Poverty Data

July 9, 2015
Who Produces or Publishes Data?

• Government departments or agencies
  • Ontario Ministry of the Environment; Statistics Canada
• Intergovernmental organizations
  • World Bank; OECD; United Nations
• Private sector organizations
  • Conference Board of Canada; World Resources Institute
• Individual researchers
  • At universities around the world
Environmental & Economic Data Sources

• Open data sources (free)
  • World Bank Data

• Commercial data sources (subscription required)
  • Bloomberg; OECD iLibrary

• Data cited within an academic research study
  • “Buried treasure: the economics of leak detection and water loss prevention in Ontario”.

• Some data exists but is unpublished / proprietary / confidential

• For specific examples and links to popular sources, see:
  • http://researchguides.library.brocku.ca/econ2p28/finding-data
Criteria for Evaluating Information Sources

- Purpose and Intended Audience
- Authority and credibility
- Accuracy and reliability
- Currency and timeliness
- Objectivity or bias
Getting Help in the Library

General research help is available at the **Circulation Desk** in the Learning Commons

- **In Person** – just drop in!
- **By Telephone** at: 905-688-5550 ext. 4583
- **By Chat** on the Library web site
Do You Have Any Questions?

• Please Contact Linda Lowry:
  • Email: llowry@brocku.ca
  • Telephone: (905) 688-5550 ext. 4650
  • Office location: Schmon Tower 1133
    • Office hours are by appointment. Please use the booking software at: https://lindalowry.youcanbook.me/